



TESTIMONY
of the
CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE OF MUNICIPALITIES
to the
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

January 31, 2011

CCM is Connecticut's statewide association of towns and cities and the voice of local government - your partners in governing Connecticut. Our members represent over 93% of Connecticut's population. We appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony to you on issues of concern to towns and cities.

CCM supports Raised Bill 834 *"An Act Concerning Municipal Open Space Priorities and Funding for the Purchase of Open Space"*.

This bill would allow, at local option, municipalities to impose up to a 1% "buyers tax" on the amount paid in excess of \$150,000 for the purchase of real property for the specific purposes of: (1) purchasing the development rights of certain land; (2) brownfield remediation; and, (3) certain other environmental projects.

During this very difficult economic climate, a new funding mechanism that would help local governments meet the needs and demands of their constituents would be welcome. The purposes that this funding stream would be designated for are ones that are supported by a wide group of constituencies across the state and will help to protect lands, improve existing lands and complete projects that wouldn't otherwise have the needed funding.

CCM urges the committee to support this bill and favorably report it.

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If you have any questions, please contact Kachina Walsh-Weaver, Senior Legislative Associate of CCM via email kweaver@ccm-ct.org or via phone (203) 710-9525.